



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



February 15, 2008

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Dear Neighbors:

In observance of Presidents' Day, Monday, February 18, the following DPR facilities in Ward 4 will be open on a holiday schedule. All other Ward 4 DPR facilities will be closed in observance of the holiday. For additional information, please call DPR at (202) 673-7647.

Takoma Aquatic Center will be open 9 am – 5 pm:
 Takoma Community Center will be open until 7 PM.
 300 Van Buren St., NW
 Phone: (202) 576-9533

The following sites will be open from 10:30 am – 7 pm:
 Emery Recreation Center
 5701 Georgia Ave., NW
 Phone: (202) 576-3211

Lamond Recreation Center
 20 Tuckerman St., NE
 Phone: (202) 576-9542

Also, there will be an open house at the following recreation centers on Friday February 22, 2008 from 5 to 7 PM: Emery, Takoma, Lamond-Riggs, Hamilton and Ft. Stevens. Please come visit these facilities and learn about all the terrific new Spring programming to be offered such as: Olympic Style Tae-kwon-do, Fitter Faster (group fitness class), Hand Dancing, Pee Wee Soccer (ages 3 – 6), and a Spring Conditioning League.

Tuesday morning, February 19th, there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting where, among other items, the committee will consider:

- **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0086**, which will speed up the ability of the government to abate vacant and nuisance properties.
- **Noise Control Protection Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0177**, which will amend the District of Columbia Noise Control Act of 1977 to consider a noise disturbance if noise made during noncommercial public speaking during daytime hours exceeds 70 decibels when measured at a distance of 50 feet from the source of the noise.

- **Telecommunications Competition Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0332**, which will amend the Telecommunications Competition Act of 1996 to exempt Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) service and Internet protocol-enabled service from regulation as a telecommunications service in the District of Columbia.
- **Clinical Trials Insurance Coverage Act of 2008, Bill 17-0469**, which will prohibit every health benefits plan offered in the District of Columbia from denying payment for coverage of routine patient care cost of a health care service, item or drug for a qualified individual participating in an approved clinical trial.
- **Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0493** will require pesticide applicators to provide information to prospective customers and residents concerning the type of pesticide to be used and provide safety information concerning that pesticide.

I hope this is helpful information and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Muriel

New transitional rehabilitation program opens on Spring Road

On February 14, Councilmember Muriel Bowser participated in the new La Casa transitional housing program at 1131 Spring Road, NW. This site was formerly an immunization clinic and has been completely renovated to accommodate up to forty men who are in a residential program designed to help them become self-sufficient. The transitional rehabilitation program is a drug and alcohol free environment in which meaningful services are provided to a stable population of residents. These services include integrated case management, counseling, employment placement assistance and also assistance to find a permanent home. The integration of the services in one place is critical to help residents overcome challenges that are limiting their personal potential and growth.

The program will be located on Spring Road temporarily for 24 months until a new facility is erected. For more information please contact: Mr. Clarence H. Carter, Director, Department of Human Services, Phone (202) 671-4355 or clarenceh.carter@dc.gov.

Update on Upper Georgia Avenue Development Plan and relocation of Engine Company #22 – February 21

Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the DC Office of Planning invite you to attend an update meeting on the relocation of Engine Company #22 and the Upper Georgia Avenue Land Development Plan on Thursday February 21, 2008 at 7 PM at Emery Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW, in Room 200. This is an opportunity to hear more about the progress made to relocate Engine Company #22 and the Upper Georgia Avenue Land Development Plan. For more information please contact, Malaika Abernathy in the DC Office of Planning at 202-442-7617 or Malaika.abernathy@dc.gov.

Update on the Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Corridor Development – February 23

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association and the Lamond-Riggs Development Task Force for an update on the redevelopment of the Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue corridor on Saturday February 23, 2008 from 10 AM to 12:00 PM in the LaSalle Elementary School auditorium, 501 Riggs Road, NE. In the coming months, DDOT will reconfigure the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue and a plan will be rolled out for mixed-use residential and retail buildings. The community has been an active participant in the planning process. As the projects gets closer to fruition we want to be sure residents understand the process, are able to provide input on what types of services they would like to have available there and know the timetables of construction. For more information please call Brandon Todd at 202-724-8052 or email: btodd@dccouncil.us.

DCWASA holds water quality meeting – February 26

DC Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) is hosting a series of meetings across the District to update the community on the lead service replacement program begun in 2003 and the quality of drinking water in the District of Columbia. The Ward 4 meeting will be on Tuesday February 26th, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Fort Stevens Recreation Center, 1327 Van Buren Street, NW. To date WASA has replaced more than 14,000 public side lead service lines. Please come learn about DCWASA's plans to remove all the lead service lines in public space by 2010 and how that will improve water quality under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. For more information please contact the DCWASA Public Affairs Office at 202-787-2202 or visit the website: www.dcwasa.com.

Safe Takoma Inc. hosts conflict resolution workshops

Safe Takoma Inc., a cross-jurisdictional organization working to reduce violence and prevent crime in the commercial and residential areas around the Takoma Metro Station, is sponsoring two conflict resolution workshops on February 29 to March 2 and on March 7 to March 9. The workshops, called Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPPP), provide opportunities to learn ways to build community and resolve conflicts peacefully. The workshops are for adults who work closely with kids as well as for kids more than 13 years old who are interested in helping reduce tensions and conflicts.

The basic workshop will be offered on February 29 to March 2 and the facilitators' training workshop on March 7 to 9th. The basic workshop is a pre-requisite for the facilitators' workshop. Participants are not required to go to both workshops, but those who are particularly interested in taking an active role in promoting conflict resolution and reduce abuse violence and crime in our communities are encouraged to attend both.

For people who live, work, or are regular participants in the activities of the Takoma Park (MD) and the Takoma (DC) Community Centers or are members of the Safe Takoma Inc (STI) Advisory Committee, the cost of participation will be absorbed by STI. For more information, please visit www.safetakoma.org or contact Faith Wheeler, fewdce@gmail.com or at 202-882-7565.